(b) whether it is also a fact that the shortage of hotel accommodation will also come in the way of accommodating visitors on the occasion of Commonwealth Games in 2010; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism (MOT) is in constant touch with land owning agencies like the Ministries of Railways, Civil Aviation, Urban Development, . Delhi Development Authority (DDA), etc. to identify additional hotel sites. These agencies and the State Governments have also been advised to follow investor friendly land policies, single window clearance, granting extra FSI /FAR for hotels etc. In order to generate additional accommodation for the Commonwealth Games 2010, Ministry of Urban Development has recently announced the increase in FAR from 150 to 225 for hotels in most parts of Delhi. MOT has also requested DDA for the utilization of housing flats located at Jasola and Vasant Kunj and MOT alongwith Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Delhi Police is considering the use of the licensed Guest Houses in Delhi for budget tourists. In order to facilitate the augmentation of accommodation, MOT has formulated the guidelines for setting up of Camp Sites and tented accommodation. MOT has also introduced the scheme for approval of incredible India Bed & Breakfast/ Homestay establishments.

Financial assistance for water sports on beaches

833. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme to help to State Governments to undertake water sports on beaches;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether any financial assistance has been given to the State Government of Goa in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of financial assistance given so far?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/UT Administrations for development of tourism products including water sports on beaches under Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations & Circuits Scheme of the Ministry, on the basis of proposals received from them, subject to availability of funds and *inter-se priority*.

No such project proposal for water sports on beaches has been submitted by Government of Goa during the current financial year. However an amount of Rs.4309.91 lakh has been sanctioned to the State Government of Goa by Ministry of Tourism for Integrated Development of Infrastructure for Heritage and Hinterland Tourism in Goa.

Tourism in Uttarakhand

†834.SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether her Ministry has taken any steps to make four "Dhams" visit easy and safe since the State of Uttarakhand is a unique religious tourist place where lakhs of pilgrims visit every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The maintenance of law and order, is the State subject, as such the safety of tourists is the responsibility of the State Government, However. the Ministry of Tourism has requested all the States and Union Territories for deployment of tourist police/Tourist Security Organization at the prominent tourist places.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends Central Finance Assistance under its various Plan Schemes, to the proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, which are complete in all respects as per the scheme guidelines subject to *inter-se priority* and availability of funds. Ministry of Tourism had sanctioned the following projects to the State of Uttarakhand for the infrastructural development of four "Dhams":

(i) Development of Badrinath Dham circuit (2004-05): Rs. 702.09 lakh

(ii) Development of Kedarnath Rudra Prayag (2005-06): 453.13 lakh

(iii) Development of Gangotri destination (2005-06): Rs. 481.42 lakh

(iv) Development of Yamunotri Dham destination (2006-07): Rs. 448.99 lakh

India among 20 most dangerous places on earth

835. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether three days long terror strike in Mumbai has pushed India among 20 most dangerous places to visit on earth according to British Daily Telegraph report;

(b) if so, whether Daily observed that British Government was currently advising against all, but essential, travel to Mumbai;

(c) whether India has been listed alongside countries Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel and various other countries;

(d) if so, whether economic slow down and terror attacks hit tourism industry; and

(e) if so, to that extent these two factors are responsible affecting tourism and what are the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) An article had appeared on the website of the Telegraph newspaper, listing India among the 20 most dangerous places. However, the article was purely the personal view of the journalist and not of the British Government.